GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:235
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Education for Children of Labourers
Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of children do not attend school due to their engagement in family labour;

(b) if so, the number of children in the country who are not attending schools due to the said reason, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government is considering any plan to bring such children to schools by allowing them to continue part time in family labour or by compensating their families; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *235, ASKED BY SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM, TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2016 REGARDING "EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN OF LABOURERS"

(a) & (b): Data regarding children not attending schools due to their engagement in family labour is not maintained in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry of Labour & Employment has also reported that they do not maintain such data.
(c) & (d): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operative with effect from 1st April, 2010, mandates that all children in the age group of 6-14 years shall be in schools for completing elementary education. Section 4 of the RTE Act provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either because they were never enrolled in school or dropped out of school, have a right to Special Training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class.
The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in 18 occupations and 65 processes and regulates the working condition of children in employment where they are not prohibited.
The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988 to rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country. Children rescued/withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Presently, the Scheme is being implemented in 270 Districts of 21 States in the country and as per reports received from the Project Societies, about 3230 special training centres are in operation with an enrolment of approximately 1.48 lakh children. Since inception more than 11.40 lakhs children have been mainstreamed into the formal education system.
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